



--OPERATION FIRE WATCH--
FIRE WATCH BREVITY CODES - EARLY DETECTION - EARLY REPORTING

Preferable to use "Q CODE" – for brevity reporting. If actual "smoke" or "fire" then use "PLAIN ENGLISH". [Beacon "ii", "e" or "T" (long tone), as appropriate, PAUSE BEFORE TX]	Comments / Explanations
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Each of below can be addressed to: a specific station you are calling / stations in a specific area / or ALL stations.

Q Code	PLAIN ENGLISH	Comments / Explanations
QWA	Home QTH [say "QTH B"] - say: • "THIS IS K6PDS [760] QTH B QWA, OUT" Other QTH _____ – e.g., say: • "THIS IS K6PDS ON [760] QTH REEDS MARKET, QWA, OUT" IN THIS CASE, THE "760" IS THE LAST 3 DIGITS OF THE SCAN PLAN FREQUENCY YOU ARE TRANSMITTING ON. "QTH B" IS YOUR HOME BASE STATION.	<p>"QWA" means: "I have made outdoor observations at current location, and taking into account any other reports I may have just made (e.g., QWK - known reported fire, etc...) / All Appears fine - No SUSPECT Smoke or Fire observed (either visual or smell). I did NOT do a search. I merely made a 360 degree turn and observed ground, trees and sky areas as I made observations and did not smell any suspect smoke and did not see any suspect smoke or fire. If any station has additional and/or contrary information please call now."</p> <p align="center">(procedure note).</p> <p>DO NOT REPORT BY LISTING FORMAT TANGO 4 ITEMS FOR THIS. This is a statement that you make without having been asked to conduct a smoke check. You are merely informing others on frequency of your observations. Recommend each station do this during day time during forest fire season.</p>

PROCEDURE: These Q Codes are an abbreviated FIRE WATCH reporting system within the SER Plan. If there is an actual Smoke Check Net Activation, then you will RPT every item on FMT Tango 4 verbally (i.e., a verbal detailed RPT). However, to facilitate goal of 24/7 Scan The Plan monitoring, the Q Codes allow very brief reporting in a summarized FMT. Thus, to issue a QWA, you will have done a 360 degree scan. You will have made the same observations as you would have for FMT Format Tango 4 RPT, but you would merely say your ultimate conclusion - i.e., "[your call sign] QWA, out". Thus, with the abbreviated Q Codes, you to **try to avoid the use of terms "no smoke" "no fire" while providing your "conclusion"**. Why? The goal is to avoid the need for a STNS to ask you to repeat because they heard the word "smoke" but didn't copy your entire statement. Of course, **if there is smoke or fire, you say so. The Goal is -short crisp, and accurate RPTS.** In this way STN Operators will be more inclined to actually monitor, because they are not having to listen to a lot of chatter, back and forth discussions, clarifications; and are not expected to respond to your RPT, unless you ask (e.g., "over" is asking for reply, "copy?"). **Also hearing others giving reports periodically reminds us all to check for smoke and fire.**

THIS PART OF THE SER PROGRAM IS DESIGNED FOR HAMS AND MURS/FRS OPERATORS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE FIRE WATCH / SMOKE WATCH PROGRAM. THE OBJECTIVE IS EARLY DETECTION AND REPORTING. ACTUAL RADIO MONITORING IS A CRITICAL ASPECT OF THIS PROGRAM. "AREA" MURS / FRS PLANS CAN USE THIS IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD USING THEIR "AREA" "OP" FREQ.

ACTUAL FIRE / SMOKE SIGHTINGS ARE REPORTED IN PLAIN ENGLISH.

QWB	SAY - "BLOWING / FLYING EMBERS LANDING AT _____ BEARING FROM YOUR LOCATION: /AZ ____ (DIRECTION DEGREES) M T /ML ____ (ESTIMATED MILES) FIRE SOURCE LOCATION: _____ (IF KNOWN)	Spot fires may result. It is recommended that everyone have at their home QTH preparations, including water hoses, shovel(s), and 50 gallon water storage containers(s) (or more) with buckets. Do this BEFORE there is a fire. Make sure home "ember safe".
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Shingletown Emerg.Radio: **FIRE WATCH BREVITY CODES** **FMT MIKE 7** **FIRE / SMOKE WATCH TEAMS**

<p>QWC</p>	<p>SAY - “CONDUCT SMOKE CHECK”</p> <p>TONE iiii eeee OR TTTT ON SELECTED FREQ. [IF NECESSARY, TONE & ANNOUNCE ON 760, 165, 505, & F1]</p> <p>FOR <u>Specific station</u> - SAY: “k6zzz this is k6jjj ON [760], CONDUCT SMOKE CHECK”</p> <p>FOR <u>Specific Area</u> - SAY: “VIOLA STNS, this is K6PDS ON [760], VIOLA STATIONS CONDUCT SMOKE CHECK”</p> <p>FOR <u>Neighborhood Area (on Neighborhood Frequency)</u> - SAY : “Village Stations this is Village Joe Village Stations - Conduct Smoke Check”</p> <p>FOR <u>All Stations</u> - SAY: “ ALL STNS, this is K6PDS ON [760] ALL STATIONS CONDUCT SMOKE CHECK.”</p> <p>Reasons given : You don’t need to give one. OR can explain - “Engine Activity”, Radio Traffic”, “Aircraft activity”</p>	<p>[NET SCRIPT – USE FMT K1]</p> <p>“CONDUCT SMOKE CHECK” means:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “ Go outside your QTH and make a 360 degree turn and observe ground, trees and sky areas observing if there is any suspect smoke or fire (either visual or smell) (do NOT do a search); record all Format Tango 4 information; AND 2. NEXT, REPORT BACK USING FORMAT TANGO 4.” <p><i>NOTE: It could be that a BBQ just started, or persons burning paper in a fireplace, a radio report of a fire – but location not known (e.g., smoke check by Cal Fire...), or forest fire starting, etc... . BASED ON RESULTS, Decide next course of action.</i></p> <p>NET SCRIPT FOR SMOKE CHECK IS FMT KILO 1</p> <p><i>Toning “i” or “T” will depend upon your decision as to the level of concern .</i></p> <p>“T” is for very high concern for priority and/or emergency type situations.</p>
<p>QWD</p>	<p>SEE DISASTER RADIO COMMS INFORMATION PLAN TICKLER LIST. NET ACTIVATIONS / DEPLOYMENT OF FIELD STATIONS / ACTIVE FOREST FIRE, EARTHQUAKE, VOLCANIC ACTIVITY, EVACUATIONS, SITREPS, AND OTHER EMERGENCIES. THIS IS FOR SITUATIONS BEYOND REPORTING &/ RECOMMENDATIONS . [See FMT LIMA 2].</p>	
<p>QWF</p>	<p>“ There is SMOKE in AO WHICH APPEARS TO BE SOURCED FROM FIREPLACES AND/OR CONTROLLED BURNS. [QTH of such AO]. My report which follows, recognizes such and is directed towards reporting any other smoke or fire that is suspect. If any station has additional and/or contrary information please call now.”</p> <p>Example: “ THIS IS K6PDS [760] QTH B QWF QWA, OUT”</p>	<p>NOTE / EXPLANATION:</p> <p>“QWF” IS YOUR CONSIDERED VIEWPOINT THAT THE SOURCE OF SMOKE IS FROM FIREPLACES AND/OR CONTROLLED BURNS. [YOU BASE THIS UPON YOUR OBSERVATIONS AT THE TIME].</p> <p>THUS, YOU SEE SMOKE ON THE RIDGE AND IT “APPEARS TO BE FROM A CONTROLLED BURN”. <u>BUT THIS IS NOT A GUARANTEE.</u> That is why other stations are asked, as part of the QWF, to provide additional information [if they are aware].</p> <p>IF YOU HAVE DETERMINED THAT THE SOURCE IS IN FACT FROM A “CONTROLLED BURN OR FIREPLACE” THEN YOU WOULD FOLLOW THE QWF WITH “CONFIRMED”. E.g., “QWF HIGWAY 44 MARKER 2300 CONFIRMED.” E.g., illegal burn: “QWF Shasta Forest Vill., illegal burn, reported to Cal Fire”</p>
<p>QWi</p>	<p>INFORMATION / ADVISORY ONLY – NO ACTION OR RESPONSE REQUESTED – EXCEPT, if any station has additional and/or contrary information please call now.</p>	<p>e.g., “QWi fire reported at ___ [has been reported to 911] [fire dept on scene] [engines in route] [%contained] etc...”</p> <p>e.g., “ QWi - today is a burn day above ___ Ft. Elev.per CalFire”</p>

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<p>QWK</p>	<p>“There is a KNOWN fire in area or in a distant area [give QTH of fire] and I understand Fire Dept. is responding or has responded. My reporting recognizes such and is directed towards reporting any other suspect smoke or fire and/or smoke odor. The report which follows assumes that any smoke/fire/smoke odor in AO for which report being given relates to the known fire unless otherwise stated in my report. If any station disagrees and/or has additional information and/or contrary information please call now.”</p>	<p>Examples:</p> <p>“THIS IS K6PDS ON [760] QWK Manton at Digger Butte, QWA, OUT”.</p> <p>“.... QWK Lane Incident, QWA, OUT” (E.G., Lane fire – 6/2018)</p> <p>NOTE: IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT A “NEW” FIRE, THEN REQUEST STATIONS TO CONDUCT A SMOKE CHECK (QWC).</p>
<p>QWL</p>	<p>“LIGHTENING strikes observed and/or expected [over area]. All stations go to higher awareness level. Make frequent SMOKE OBSERVATIONS. REPORT AS/ IF NECESSARY.”</p> <p>Following Lightening Stikes, a fire may develop over the course of a short time, up to approx. 2 weeks. Thus, if station operators are driving, they should have a higher level of alert during such times. Have your radio, cell phone and a compass to give bearings, etc... .</p> <p>You can supplement QWL as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RECENT [e.g., “QWL recent”] - FORECASTED [e.g., “QWL forecasted”] - STRIKE AT [INSERT AS APPROP] [INSERT LAT / LONG] [AREA – e.g., SHASTA FOREST VILLAGE] [LANDMARK – e.g., NE BLACK BUTTE /ML _] [ROADS – e.g., HGHY 44 & WILSON HILL] - [/HRS ____] , ... OUT. <p>[e.g., “QWL, strike at Shasta Forest Village, 1900 hrs”]</p>	<p>“SMOKE OBSERVATIONS” means:</p> <p>“ 1. Conduct Smoke Observations = STATIONS DO QWA FOR OBSERVATION PURPOSES</p> <p>BUT,</p> <p>2. NO need to report on Radio unless you have something to report.”</p>
<p>QWO</p>	<p>“OBSERVED – General Smoke / Haze Conditions – Visibility: There is General Smoke / Haze Conditions in the identified area of operation. My report recognizes such and is directed towards reporting any other suspect smoke or fire. Any Station with additional info. please advise. Otherwise, no action planned.”</p> <p>NOTE: concentrations of general atmospheric smoke may indicate a potential source location for a fire (or wind may have “pushed” smoke into a particular area, e.g., valley). Stations need to be alert to any new fires as it may be difficult to see a “New” column of smoke through the general atmospheric smoke.</p>	<p>Means:</p> <p>“ 1. It appears that General Atmospheric smoke / haze is in the identified AO;</p> <p>2. It appears the Source of the Gen. Atmospheric smoke / haze is from a source outside the identified area, or, if from the identified area has already been reported (and/or of no immediate concern);</p> <p>3. If any Station has additional information, or contrary information, call now; and</p> <p>4. Otherwise, no action is planned.”</p> <p>IF YOU ARE CONCERNED CALL 911 AND REQUEST STATIONS TO CONDUCT A SMOKE CHECK.</p> <p>SEE QWO MODIFIERS – DEFINED AT PAGES 5 to 7.</p>
<p>QWO NOTE: DO NOT SAY “SMOKE” – INSTEAD SAY “QWO” or “QWO all directions same – Moderate” (see Column /V on Fmt. Tango 4 for criteria). Another Example: “QWO North West – Heavy” .</p>		
<p>QWP</p>	<p>“POWER LINES down. Risk of Fire and/or Electrical Danger [give QTH of Power Line Down Location]”</p>	<p>Means:</p> <p>“1. Conduct Smoke Observations (defined SEE QWL); BUT</p> <p>2. NO need to report on Radio unless you have something to report; and</p> <p>3. Be sure to call 911 about the power lines down (or ask for radio relay if no ability to use phone).”</p>

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<p>QWS</p>	<p>Tone: T T T T T</p> <p>SAY: “SMOKE / [FIRE] SIGHTED” [USE FORMAT TANGO 4].</p> <p>Then as appropriate:</p> <p>“ NEED RELAY”</p> <p>“ Location is _____ ” ETC...</p> <p>[IF YOU ARE MERELY ADVISING OF A FIRE THAT HAS BEEN REPORTED – USE QWi OR QWK]</p> <p>NET SCRIPT: FORMAT KILO 1- SCRIPT #2.</p>	<p>Priority / Emergency - smoke or fire sighted.</p> <p>Give QTH of fire/smoke (use FMT TANGO 4 METHODS)</p> <p>CALL 911 AND REPORT THE FIRE/SMOKE LOCATION. IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE EXACT LOCATION IN THE FOREST (CALL 911 AND GIVE GENERAL AREA), THEN ASK OTHER OPERATORS TO TAKE COMPASS BEARINGS FROM KNOWN LOCATIONS FOR TRIANGULATION. THEN MAP IT AND REPORT LOCATION (I.E., CALL 911 AGAIN WITH UPDATE).</p> <p>WHEN YOU HEAR THIS:</p> <p>ALL STATIONS CONDUCT SMOKE CHECK – USE FORMAT TANGO 4</p>
<p>QWT</p>	<p>“Travel Mode”</p>	<p>“I am in Travel Mode (scanning the Plan Frequencies) and not at my home QTH. If a location follows, it is the location where I was when the observations being reported on (if any) were made. I am making this report from a safe location off of the roadway.”</p>
<p>QWV</p>	<p>“VIGILANT WATCH ALERT”</p>	<p>“Be on ALERT due to any / all of the following: High Fire Danger; Red Flag Warning; High Winds advisory; illegal burning / camp fires; active reported fires are burning; and/or any POTENTIAL arsonists (REPORT – DO NOT ENGAGE). (If arsonists are reported – then use QWW).</p>
<p>QWW</p>	<p>“WARNING – REPORTS OF ARSONIST(S) IN AREA (INSERT AREA).”</p> <p>Advise if REPORTS ARE “ CONFIRMED” OR “ NOT CONFIRMED”.</p> <p>[DO NOT STATE THIS Q CODE MEANING ON THE AIR UNLESS YOU ARE CERTAIN THAT IT WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES IN LOCATING ARSONISTS]</p>	<p>EXAMPLE: “All Stations BOLO FOR ARSONIST(S). REPORT IMMED. TO 911. GET COMPLETE DESCRIPTIONS OF VEH. AND PERSONS. DO NOT ENGAGE.”</p> <p>EXAMPLE NOTE: As to potential arsonists in an area – use discretion. May want to initially use Q code only (cal fire may not want information made public yet):</p> <p>Ex:“K6xyz [760] QWW, Nora Lake area – unconfirmed, out”</p>
<p>OTHER SER PRO WORDS: SER MEANINGS:</p>		
<p>“NEED RELAY”</p>	<p>I need a station to relay my information to 911 or other....</p>	
<p>“REPORT - SMOKE CHECK” “REPORT – FIELD SMOKE CHECK”</p>	<p>Use FORMAT TANGO Tango 4. Use FORMAT TANGO Tango 4.</p>	
<p>“SITUATION WAS REPORTED”</p>	<p>I have already reported situation to 911, or other... .</p>	
<p>“QXA”</p>	<p>MEANING: “ALL OKAY AND NOTHING TO REPORT AT MY QTH.”</p>	
<p>“OUT”</p>	<p>MEANING: You do not expect a reply to your transmission, and communications has ended between you and the other station. NO REPLY IS EXPECTED.</p>	
<p>“QRT”</p>	<p>MEANING IS: “I am suspending operation”. [closing down my station].</p>	
<p>“UTL”</p>	<p>MEANING IS: “UNABLE TO LOCATE”</p>	
<p>“/TLV ”</p>	<p>MEANING IS: “Terrain Limiting View - “my report is limited because at my QTH I am surrounded by Trees, Vegetation, Buildings, and/or other obstacles which are obstructing my view of distant landmarks, hills, mountains, etc... .Thus, for example, my report of QWO may be “light” when other STNS are reporting “Moderate” and/or “Heavy” as to known distance landmarks (e.g., a hill located in the line of sight 5 miles away from their QTH).”</p> <p>Example: “K6PDS QTH B QWO Terrain Limiting View, all directions same, light, ... QWA , OUT”</p>	
<p>“QVN T”</p> <p>Note: the “,.VN” in above is a “Net” operations Q Code under our procedures.</p>	<p>MEANING IS: “TONE ANNOUNCE ACTIVATION IN PROCESS. STN [is] [or if asking a STNT to do this procedure, “please”] Toning [Tone] and Activating [Activate] on other Scan Plan Frequencies, as appropriate (or as specified). Any STN please handle any emergency or priority traffic on Designated Net Frequency during this time. Keep designated Net Frequency open for emergency / priority traffic only (e.g., see fire / smoke column, auto accident etc...) Any STN performing TONE AND ANNOUNCE IS TO Report back on designated net frequency when done.”</p> <p>Example of NET CONTROL asking another station to Tone and Announce on 505 (simplex): NCS would say: “ W6BEN please QVN T 505, over” W6BEN BEN would say “Roger” and then QSY TO 505 AND THEN TONE AND THEN SAY ON 505: e.g., “[SITREP NET] Activated. USE FMT TANGO 9A Stations....GO TO [FREQ]. Reports in 3 min. GO TO [FREQ]. [CALL SIGN] OUT”</p>	

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While Traveling Use QWT Procedures

QWT - "I am in Travel Mode and not at my home QTH. If a location follows, it is the location where I was when the observations being reported on (if any) were made. I am making this report from a safe location off of the roadway."

Sample Transmission	Meaning
"This is K6XYZ QWT, out."	"I am in travel mode and scanning the Plan Frequencies."
"This is K6XYZ QWT highway 44 marker 2600 Echo, QWA, out"	"[insert above meaning of QWT code] and the following Observation was made from mileage marker 26.00 on highway 44 while heading East bound, QWA, out." [Note: since a direction of travel is indicated, then this was a looking forward and left/right limited scan when you were driving.]
"This is K6XYZ QWT Costco Redding, QWA, out"	[insert above meaning of QWT code] and the following Observation was made from Costco in Redding, QWA, out" [Note: since no direction of travel is stated, this is a 360 degree scan.]

Explanation: **In January 2017, AB 1785 went into effect** and prohibits use of a "wireless device" while driving. Unfortunately, the term "wireless device" has been broadly interpreted by some to include mobile radios, nullifying the amateur radio exemption that had previously been in place. We could be ticketed (and there are reports that some have been) for using our mobile radio while driving. Until the law can be clarified to assure that mobile operations while driving are legal, we are going to make the following changes to our procedure. **No longer advise you are "Mobile"**. Use "QWT" and below procedure. *Recommended Procedure: If someone attempts contact with you while you are driving, or you wish to initiate contact with someone while you are driving, then: Before responding, or initiating contact, the traveling Station Operator(s) is to locate a convenient and safe location to pull off the roadway, stop their vehicle, and make a contact, or make a smoke report. In no case should the traveler stop on the side of a freeway; you should pull off at an exit, stop in a safe location and call in. Where possible plan your travel so contacts are made prior to entering a freeway or after exiting one.*

LAT / LONG CONVERSIONS

Deg. Min. Sec. / Degrees & Dec.Min / Decimal Degrees [to proof this section]

Underlined portion is what is converted in each of below:

Deg. Min. Sec.	Degrees & Dec. Min.	Decimal Degrees
=====	=====	=====
40° 05' <u>18"</u>	40° 05	
ACTION: 18 /60 Converted>>	.3	
Result>> = 40° 05.3		
=====		
	40° <u>05.3</u>	40°
ACTION 05.3 /60 Converted>>	.08833	
Result>> = 40 .08833°		
=====		
	40°	40 <u>.08833</u> °
	05.3	<<Converted .08833 X 60 ← ACTION
40° 05 .3	<<Result	
=====		
40° 05'	40° 05' <u>.3</u>	
18"	<<Converted .3 X 60 ← ACTION	
40° 05' 18"	<<Result	
=====		

QWO Modifiers: "None Present", "Light", "Moderate", "Heavy".

"Visible Range" = the point at which even high-contrast objects (e.g., a dark forested mountain viewed against the sky at noon) totally disappear. ("Visible Range" DERIVED FROM: Shasta County Wildfire Smoke – a Guide for Public Health Officials – revised May 2016)

"Beyond Visible Range" = the identified object (e.g., mountain, hill, etc...) when viewed against the sky at noon" is NOT visible due to the smoke/haze.

Obviously, we will not be limiting our reports to "noon".


It is important for the reporter to give his location, the ID of the object he is looking at, and a best estimate of distance from his location to the object.

Examples of QWO Report: “K... QWT 44/Millville plains, East Bound

QWO [viewing] Black Butte light , Shingletown ridge moderate,
Mt Lassen-Beyond Visible Range, Burney MT Heavy” QWA, OUT”
[This report gives your location and known objects with known distances].

A partial example – WITH MILES: “QWO” [your location and direction of view] “... Visible Range 15 miles” ...
[another way to advise of the distance].

“**Heavy**” = the OUTLINE of the identified object (e.g., mountain, hill, etc....) when viewed against the sky at noon is BARELY visible due to the smoke/haze.

<p>Photo illustrates a HEAVY HAZE CONDITION.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Heavy”</p> <p>[OUTLINE of the identified objects BARELY visible]</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">/HVY</p>
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“**Moderate**” = the identified object (e.g., mountain, hill, etc....) when viewed against the sky at noon is visible, BUT the trees, rocks, surface detail, and/or other ground terrain on the identified object are NOT visible due to the smoke/haze.

<p>Buildings on left illustrate a Moderate Haze condition.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Moderate”</p> <p>[Details on surface <u>not</u> visible]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">/MOD</p>		<p>Building on extreme right illustrates a Light Haze condition.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Light”</p> <p>[Details on surface visible]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">/LT</p>
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“**Light**” = the identified object (e.g., mountain hill, etc....) when viewed against the sky at noon is visible AND the trees, rocks, surface detail, and/or other ground terrain on the identified object are ALSO VISIBLE.

<p>buildings in background illustrates a</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Light” Haze condition</p> <p>[details on surfaces visible]</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">/LT</p>
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ILLUSTRATION OF A LIGHT, TO MODERATE, TO HEAVY TRANSITION



If you see a fire – call 911 and report it. This is not a substitute for 911.



St. Florian, protect Shingletown.

[NOTE: This current version is sourced from FMT Mike 7 20180814 Auth: OWX DUA AWI9 and is a consolidation with clarifications from such.]